

Time running out to submit your health awards nominations

There is just over a week left to nominate a patient or carer in Dorset who has shown courage, kindness or innovation recovering from a major health setback.

Launched back in 2013, the Road to Wellness Awards celebrate people across Dorset who have battled – or helped others – to overcome debilitating physical or mental health problems.

Run by Dorset HealthCare, there are eight awards which showcase inspirational stories of recovery and determination.

Last year's winner of the Courage Award was 10-year-old Ronaldo Rodriguez Kretz from Dorchester, who has cerebral palsy. He was recognised for his determination which has enabled him to cope with mainstream school, learn to use a motorised wheelchair and move to middle school successfully.

His father Sean said: "Ronaldo was delighted to win his accolade. This is a truly fantastic event with a real sense of prestige, which gives people who have faced tremendous challenges in their lives self-belief.

"Winning the courage award has given Ronaldo the confidence and platform to grow in every area of his life. It is something he will always cherish. I would urge anyone to submit a nomination and recognise a truly great individual."

This year's celebration will take place on **Tuesday 4 April** with a prestigious gala event at Talbot Heath School in Bournemouth.

Nominations close at midday on **Thursday 2 February**, so don't hesitate in putting some names forward of individuals or groups you believe deserve recognition.

There are eight categories including:

- Group Award – where a group of people have supported their peers in making a recovery
- Kindness Award – where someone has shown particular compassion and kindness in helping someone
- Innovation Award – where someone has come up with a new idea to aid a person's recovery
- Inspiration Award – where a person has inspired others by fighting to overcome severe difficulties in their recovery

- Courage Award – where a person has been particularly brave in the face of adversity to recover from their problems
- Communication Award – where someone has helped others by sharing their own experiences of rehabilitation and recovery
- Carers Award – where someone has shown outstanding commitment, support and positivity to aid another person's recovery
- Outstanding Achievement Award – a particularly great story where someone has done exceptionally well to recover or made a real difference in helping another's recovery.

Anyone can submit a nomination, either for themselves or for someone they know, as long as a service provided by Dorset HealthCare has been used to aid recovery.

And if you are not sure which category your nominee fits into, you can put them forward for more than one award.

Further details are online at www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk where you can also download an online nomination form. Alternatively you can submit a paper version which is available at all Trust sites or by calling 01202 277 085.

The evening itself will start at 5.45pm with a buffet followed by the awards ceremony at 6.30pm. To book your place, email road2wellness.awards@dhuft.nhs.uk.

ENDS



Join the conversation: @DorsetHealth / #RoadtoWellness



Notes to editors

1. Image One: Ronaldo Rodriguez Getz (centre), winner of the Courage Award at last year's event, poses alongside Dorset HealthCare Chief Executive Ron Shields (left) and his father Sean.
2. Details of last year's Road to Wellness winners are available on our website [here](#).
3. Dorset HealthCare provides community health services covering mental health, learning disability, addictions, brain injury, dental, and some primary care services, across Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. Community health services include district nurses, health visitors, school nursing, end of life care, sexual health promotion, safeguarding children, diabetes, education, audiology, speech and language therapy, orthopaedic care, prison health care, breastfeeding support and Dorset's 11 community hospitals.